(d) For evacuation of North-East Refinery products, including NRL, following action has been taken:-

1. North-East Evacuation, including NRL has been worked out by oil companies along with Railways.

2. 1200 tank wagons are under procurement under own-your-wagon scheme by oil companies for evacuation of product from NRL besides tank wagons purchased by Railways.

गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता

2585. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात राज्य में इस शताब्दी के अंत तक प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता तथा उसके उत्पादन के संबंध में कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ कोई धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। 1999-2000 की अवधि में गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन 3.97 बी सी एम होने का अनुमान है।

(ग) और (घ) ओ एन जी सी ने गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 और 1999-2000 में हाइड्रोकार्बन की खोज और उत्पादन के लिए क्रमशः 701 करोड. रुपए और 804 करोड. रुपए का बजट परिव्यय निर्धारित किया है।

उपर्युक्त के अतिरिक्त, गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 में छोटे क्षेत्रों में निजी कंपनियों द्वारा किया गया अनुमानित खर्च लगभग 64 करोड़ रुपये है।

Share Prices of Oil Companies

2586. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating selling off its equity stake in the oil companies in the country to reduce the fiscal deficit;

(b) whether it is a fact that the share prices of these companies have substantially fallen;

(c) if so, the percentage by which the share prices of the oil companies have fallen stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which Government is likely to suffer a loss due to sharp dip in this share values of the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government has disinvested, during 1998-99, a part of its equity held in Gas Authority of India Limited in the domestic market through book building process to increase liquidity of its shares in the market, with the objective of establishing a realistic bench mark price for future disinvestment in GDR market. In addition to the above, the Government has also permitted Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to purchase its equity in each other, to foster vertical integration in the hydrocarbon sector among Public Sector Undertakings and to promote business synergy to enhance their global competitiveness.

(b) and (c) The movements in the prices of shares of these companies traded in the Stock Exchange, Mumbai have shown a mixed trend during February-March 1999 as indicated below. Current fluctuation in the market prices of the shares of these companies stems from several reasons, the chief of which is the depressed outlook of global oil industry and its impact on the domestic stock markets.

Company	Percentage change in the share prices	
	February 1999	March 1999 (up to 10.3.1999)
IOC	(-) 14.99	(+) 4.5
ONGC	(-) 10.55	(-) 8.3
GAIL	(-) 16.41	(+) 8.9

Note: 1: The monthly percentage change in the prices of February 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 29th January 1999 (base price) and 26th February, 1999.

2. The monthly percentage change in the prices of March 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 26th February, 1999 (base price) and 10th March 1999.